

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

Claim 1 (Withdrawn): Semiconductor ultrafine particles, which maintain 50% or more fluorescence quantum yield of photoluminescence when the particles are kept dispersed in water at 10°C to 20°C in air for five days.

Claim 2 (Withdrawn): Semiconductor ultrafine particles according to Claim 1, wherein the particles belong to Group II-VI semiconductor ultrafine particles.

Claim 3 (Withdrawn): Semiconductor ultrafine particles according to Claim 2, wherein the fluorescence quantum yield is measured when they are kept dispersed in an aqueous solution having a pH of 10 to 12 comprising a water-soluble compound containing a Group II element (about 0.001 to about 0.05 mol/L) as a starting material of the semiconductor ultrafine particles of Group II-VI and a surfactant (about 1 to 1.5 mol per mol of the Group II element contained in the aqueous solution).

Claim 4 (Withdrawn): Semiconductor ultrafine particles according to Claim 2, wherein the particles are cadmium telluride.

Claim 5 (Currently Amended): A fluorescent material which is obtained by dispersing semiconductor ultrafine particles ~~according to Claim 1~~ in a glass matrix formed by a sol-gel process, wherein the semiconductor ultrafine particles maintain at least 50% fluorescence quantum yield of photoluminescence when the particles are kept dispersed in water at 10°C to 20°C in air for five days.

Claim 6 (Original): A fluorescent material wherein semiconductor ultrafine particles with 20% or more fluorescence quantum yield of photoluminescence are dispersed in a glass matrix formed by a sol-gel process.

Claim 7 (Original): A fluorescent material according to Claim 6, wherein a concentration of semiconductor ultrafine particles in the glass matrix is 2×10^{-6} to 2×10^{-4} mol/L.

Claim 8 (Previously Presented): A fluorescent material according to Claim 5, wherein the glass matrix is formed by a sol-gel process using an organoalkoxysilane as a starting material.

Claim 9 (Previously Presented): A fluorescent material according to Claim 5, wherein semiconductor ultrafine particles are dispersed in the glass matrix, the particles having a fluorescence quantum yield of photoluminescence which is decreased by 20% or less when the fluorescent material is left at room temperature in air for eight months.

Claim 10 (Withdrawn): A method for manufacturing semiconductor ultrafine particles according to Claim 2, the method comprising introducing a compound containing a Group VI element under an inert atmosphere into an aqueous alkaline solution in which a water-soluble compound containing a Group II element and a surfactant are dissolved;

wherein the amount of surfactant is about 1 to about 1.5 mol per 1 mol of the Group II element; and

ultrapure water in which the specific resistance is 18 MΩ·cm or more and the total amount of organic compound (TOC) contained therein is 5 ppb or less is used as a solvent.

Claim 11 (Previously Presented): A method of manufacturing a fluorescent material according to Claim 5, the method comprising adding a dispersion of semiconductor ultrafine particles according to Claim 1 to a sol solution containing a metal alkoxide, to cause hydrolysis and condensation polymerization, thereby forming a glass matrix.

Claim 12 (Currently Amended): A method of manufacturing a fluorescent material according to Claim 11, the method comprising adding a dispersion of semiconductor ultrafine particles according to ~~Claim 4~~ Claim 5 to a sol solution containing a metal alkoxide, to cause hydrolysis and condensation polymerization, thereby forming a glass matrix;

wherein the dispersion of the semiconductor ultrafine particles is added when the viscosity of the sol solution containing a metal alkoxide reaches 300 centipoises to 3000 centipoises.

Claim 13 (Original): A light emitting device comprising:
a light emitter composed of a fluorescent material according to Claim 5; and
a light source which emits excitation light with a wavelength of 320 nm to 600 nm for exciting the fluorescent material.